

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of atherosclerosis, which method comprises administration of one or more Growth Hormone Releasing Peptides (GHRPs) to a patient in need of such treatment or prophylaxis, wherein said administration is carried out under conditions effective to treat or prevent atherosclerosis.
2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, which comprises preventing the development of atherosclerotic plaques by carrying out said administration on administering one or more GHRPs to a patient at risk of developing such plaques, hypercholesterolemia or cardiovascular diseases associated with atherosclerosis.
3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, which comprises treating pre-existing atherosclerosis by carrying out said administration on administering one or more GHRPs to a patient who has atherosclerosis.
- 4-5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the one or more GHRPs are hexarelin (His-(D)-(Me)Trp-Ala-Trp-(D)-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, SEQ ID NO: 1) or EP80317 (Haic-(D)-(Me)Trp-(D)-Lys-Trp-(D)-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, SEQ ID NO: 2).
- 7-25. (Canceled)
26. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing or treating atherosclerosis, which method comprises administering a growth hormone releasing peptide of Hexarelin family, a derived peptidomimetic or a CD36 ligand to a patient in need of such prevention or treatment, wherein said administering is carried out under conditions effective to prevent or treat atherosclerosis.
27. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing the development of atherosclerotic lesions, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of such prevention a GHRP derivative, a derived peptidomimetic or a CD36 ligand which modulates the expression of a scavenger receptor B (CD36), wherein said administering is carried out under conditions effective to prevent development of atherosclerotic lesions.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing the development of atherosclerotic lesions, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of such prevention a GHRP derivative or a derived peptidomimetic which modulates the expression of the ATP-binding cassette ABCA1 transporter and scavenger receptor B (CD36), wherein said administering is carried out under conditions effective to prevent development of atherosclerotic lesions.